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STATE FOR NEA/MAG, IO/RHS, DRL/MLGA, EUR/PGI, USUN NEW
YORK, AND US MISSION GENEVA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/15/2017
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [MO](#)
SUBJECT: MOROCCO ON BELARUS UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
CANDIDACY

REF: STATE 58036

Classified By: Polcouns Craig M. Karp for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) In a May 14 meeting with Abdelmounaim El Farouq, Chief of the Social and Humanitarian Issues Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, poloff urged Morocco to use its vote at the upcoming elections for the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) to elect countries with strong human rights records. Poloff explained that the U.S. is opposed to candidates with a record of serious human rights violations, and underscored that a seat on the council for Belarus would undermine the credibility of the HRC. Poloff offered Slovenia and Bosnia as credible alternative candidates for the Eastern European slate.

12. (C) Farouq welcomed the U.S. demarche and added that the GOM has shared concerns regarding Belarus's candidature. According to Farouq, the GOM has not made a final decision on its voting strategy, but he took note of the U.S. position and pledged to pass our concerns to other Ministry officials and the Moroccan delegation in New York. European diplomats, led by the French, have also delivered a similar demarche, Farouq said.

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